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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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13 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : [REDACTED] Briefing

1. On 31 May the Director of Central Intelligence visited Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Burbank, California, and received a special briefing on CORONA/LANYARD programs. Participants at the briefing, in addition to the Director of Central Intelligence and Mr. John Parangosky, were the following Lockheed people:

[REDACTED]  
Mr. E. Root, President of LMSC

[REDACTED]  
Mr. J. Plummer, Assistant General Manager of LMSC

2. A briefing document entitled [REDACTED] Special Briefing" dated 31 May 1963, prepared by Lockheed and used at the briefing, is on file in the office of the Deputy for Technology, Office of Special Activities. In addition to this document, Mr. Plummer used briefing aids depicting CORONA, MURAL, MURAL/J, ARGON and LANYARD configurations, some enlarged photographs of Agena D racks, and a copy of the satellite schedule contained in the aforementioned briefing document.

3. After brief remarks of welcome [REDACTED] outlined the corporate roles of the various participants in the briefing. [REDACTED] gave a brief resume of his personal attention to this program and corrective actions underway to cope with failures encountered [REDACTED] this year, with particular emphasis on corrective measures underway relating to forthcoming launches. The DCI emphasized the national importance of achieving successful performance and recoveries in this program and expressed grave concern at the high percentage of failures thus far this year. Further, the DCI made it quite

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25X1 plain that he had given clear instructions as far back as February to his people to insure that all possible corrective actions were undertaken by all concerned to assure successful missions. [ ] said the message was received and, what were thought to be appropriate measures, were taken in the past. [ ] indicated, however, that recent and forthcoming measures, outlined in the aforementioned briefing document to cope with the situation, will be more all inclusive and exhaustive. [ ] reported that Mr. Plummer, who has been in the [ ] since its inception, would be reoriented to devote about 90 percent of his time to the [ ]

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4. Mr. Plummer took over the briefing and went through a brief history of the program by reviewing charts depicting the various payload configurations, i.e., CORONA, ARGON, MURAL, MURAL/J and LANYARD. He displayed photographs of Agena D configurations and racks. Also, he presented a satellite planning schedule. While reviewing Agena D racks devoted to cover but useful experiments, the question arose about the merit of continuing such experiments for cover purposes in the future. The DCI said that such experiments should be continued since they were both useful and provided a required cover mission for the program.

25X1 5. During Mr. Plummer's general remarks that Mercury systems are designed to be more redundant than the [ ] system, [ ] indicated that some redundancy, if desired, could be provided in the system at perhaps the expense of some of the cover experiments, since a weight trade-off would be necessary. This item was noted for further consideration at Headquarters.

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6. During the briefing [ ] interjected comments about the continuity of experienced key as well as "hard hat" personnel in the program. He also pointed out that the briefing paper covered this topic in detail.

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7. Prior to the close of the meeting Mr. Root raised a question concerning whether or not there has been a change in program philosophy. Mr. Root felt that it was impossible to expect 100% successes. Further, that unless building block development experiments of an evolutionary nature were continued, the program could not hope to make progress. The DCI

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remarked that well considered development experiments should be continued. He acknowledged that some risk to the primary mission was involved, but that this was the price of progress. The DCI acknowledged that one could not expect to achieve 100% success, but that every effort should be made to assure successes and minimize failures. In any event, the high percentage of recent failures would not be tolerated.

25X1 8. [REDACTED] closed the meeting by thanking the DCI for his visit.

SIGNED

JOHN PARANGOSKY  
Deputy for Technology  
(Special Activities)

25X1 John Parangosky :D/TECH/OSA [REDACTED] (13 June 1963)

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